

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
July 28, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Paul Anderson – First Presbyterian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Barron was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

A large gathering permit was requested by India Fest. The festival will take place August 9, 2015. The Merrillville Police Department will be providing patrol. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated July 28, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2015. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Miano spoke about Resolution 15-24 regarding the purchase or use gun-shaped iPhone cases. An ordinance related to the penalties and fines involved is in the process of being created. Mrs. Miano expressed that this type of product can put our town and police officers in jeopardy. Mr. Hardaway requested a workshop to review & discuss the ordinance prior to being presented at the Town Council meeting. Mrs. Miano agreed.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Widing had no report. Mr. Petruch announced that there will be a “Take Back” Pharmaceutical disposal day on September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Merrillville Town Hall.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Miano announced that on July 30, 2015 there will be a concert at Pruzin Park. Latin Satin Soul will perform from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ms. Orlich stated that there will also be a marketing booth located at the park during this time to promote upcoming programs & activities. Mr. Widing stated he received multiple phone calls from residents expressing how much they enjoyed the previous concert. The Senior Picnic will take place on August 7, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ms. Orlich said the second sessions of summer programs/activities have started and that the fall/winter brochure is near completion.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano announced that the 3rd Annual National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall parking lot.

Mr. Hardaway announced that the Ward 2 - National Night Out will also take place on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Meadowland Park / 54th & Madison.

Both events will offer food, give-away prizes, and lots of fun & activities. They encouraged all to attend.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

Mr. Hardaway provided an overview of the details related to Ordinance 15-16 regarding vacant & abandoned building registration and maintenance program. Mr. Widing expressed that he has received positive feedback from residents in regards to action being taken related to these properties. Mr. Guernsey discussed the positive impact that this ordinance will bring to our community.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**AMENDED**

**Ord. 15-16:** An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to establish a vacant and abandoned building registration and maintenance program. Mr. Bushemi reviewed the three amended items within the ordinance. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Mr. Hardaway thanked Mr. Bushemi, Town Council and the committee for the work that was put into creating this ordinance.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 15-22:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Widing. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 15-23:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Parks Non Reverting Fund. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to amend the Town Council Agenda to include Resolution 15-24. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 15-24:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council, Lake County, Indiana urging citizens not to purchase or use gun-shaped iPhone cases and calling upon Federal Legislators to ban the import and sale of such devices. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. Mrs. Miano stated that she believed that the Town of Merrillville is one of the first in the nation to implement such a resolution. No further discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

On June 30, 2015 there was a fire that occurred at CVS located at 53rd & Broadway. Mr. Hardaway provided the council with a picture of the business taken on July 28, 2015 which shows the appearance of the business still in atrocious shape and in need of further repairs. A discussion followed in regards to how the town should proceed with this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Salvation Army - Back to School backpack give away on August 3, 2015 at 3 p.m.  
Stormwater Management Board meeting, August 4, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.  
National Night Out, August 4, 2015 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
*(Merrillville Municipal Complex, 7820 Broadway)*  
National Night Out, August 4, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
*(Ward 2 – Meadowland Park / 54th & Madison)*  
Plan Commission workshop, August 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Police Commission meeting, August 7, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.  
Town Council meeting, August 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Widing.

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Tom Goralczyk, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer